B2 7.(Twice Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said polyesterase has at least 100% greater hydrolysis in a UV and/or a MB assay than a similar method without the use of a polyesterase enzyme.

B3 12. (Once Amended) A method for modifying the textile characteristics of a polyester article prior to the application of a finish to the article, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a polyesterase enzyme, wherein said polyesterase enzyme has at least 10% greater hydrolysis in an assay selected from a UV assay or a MB assay compared to a similar assay without the use of said polyesterase enzyme;

(b) contacting said polyesterase enzyme with said polyester article under conditions and for a time suitable for said polyesterase to produce a modified polyester article; and

(c) producing a modified polyester article.

13. (Once Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polyester fiber, yarn or fabric is subsequently incorporated into a textile.

Please cancel claims 14 – 16 and 19 – 20.

Please add the following new claims:

B4 21. A method for enzymatically modifying the characteristics of an unsoiled aromatic polyester textile comprising; treating said polyester, prior to the application of a finish, with a polyesterase enzyme for a time and under conditions to modify the textile properties of said polyester, wherein said modified textile properties of the treated polyester comprise the pilling, pilling prevention, weight, feel, appearance or luster properties of said polyester.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein said polyesterase is derived from a Pseudomonas spp.

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23. A method for modifying the surface of an aromatic polyester resin, film, fiber, yarn or fabric comprising, (a) contacting said polyester prior to application of a finish with a polyesterase enzyme solution derived from a Pseudomonas spp, wherein said polyesterase enzyme has at least 10% greater hydrolysis in an assay selected from a UV assay and a MB assay compared to a similar assay without the use of said polyesterase enzyme, and (b) allowing said polyester to be modified, wherein said modified properties include the pilling, pilling prevention, weight, feel, appearance or luster of said polyester.

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